GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER
FIGHTING COVID-19 AND INVESTING IN HEALTHCARE

Governor Whitmer is prioritizing the health and well-being of every Michigander by ensuring access to equitable, affordable health care. Through the COVID-19 pandemic, her decisive, data-driven early action and focus on vulnerable communities saved thousands of lives. The Governor's steady leadership helped millions of Michiganders get vaccinated and helped Michigan's economy recover quickly. Beyond her leadership through the pandemic, Governor Whitmer has expanded access to telemedicine, signed bipartisan legislation to protect people against surprise medical billing, and created a task force to tackle the high cost of prescription drugs. Governor Whitmer has led the way on healthcare by prioritizing access to care, driving down costs, and pursuing equity.

ACCESS & AFFORDABILITY

- Extended Healthy Michigan to nearly 900,000 people and suspended the Medicaid work requirement that created barriers to coverage.
- Expanded access to telemedicine and signed bipartisan legislation requiring all insurers to cover telehealth.
- Proposed MI Healthy Communities, a $1.4 billion proposal to expand care for families, build up facilities, and invest in local public health with federal relief dollars from President Biden's American Rescue Plan. The plan addressed many of the deficiencies in Michigan's health infrastructure that were revealed during the pandemic and provided resources to meet Michigan families' mental health needs, expand access to behavioral care and telemedicine, upgrade nursing homes, and bolster local public health departments.
- Signed bipartisan legislation to protect Michiganders against surprise medical billing.
- Established Prescription Drugs Task Force and is working to implement their recommendations to drive down costs, promote transparency, and improve health outcomes.

COVID-19

- Saved lives statewide by taking decisive early action, with the pause over the 2020 holiday season, and in nursing homes.
- Gave a $2/hour raise to direct care workers.
- Supported testing for vulnerable communities and high-risk populations including nursing homes, prisons, agricultural workers, adult foster care, and others.
- Established the Racial Disparities Task Force and made "lasting structural change."
  - Reduced new COVID-19 cases reported from 176 per million Black Michiganders at onset of pandemic to 59 per million by the Fall of 2020.
  - Brought down the number of probable COVID-19 deaths reported for Black citizens from 21.7 per day to 1.
- Administered over 10 million safe, effective vaccine doses and counting, driving down cases, deaths, and hospitalizations to help Michigan get "Vacc to Normal" ahead of schedule.
- Created the MI Shot To Win Sweepstakes to incentivize more Michiganders to get vaccinated by giving them a chance to win over $5 million in cash prizes or college scholarships.
- Facilitated free COVID-19 vaccines for all and free testing and treatment for low-income Michiganders.

"Every Michigander deserves access to quality, affordable healthcare and no one should have to choose between buying prescription drugs or paying for groceries. The health of our people is inextricably linked to every challenge we face and opportunity we have. It is essential for us to take actions to make care easier to access, lower out of pocket costs, and pursue equity."

- Governor Gretchen Whitmer

HEALTH EQUITY

- Declared racism a public health crisis.
- Required all medical professionals to undergo unconscious bias training to target healthcare disparities.
- Invested in Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies, focusing on addressing disproportionate racial impacts of maternal and infant mortality and ensure moms have the support they need for healthy pregnancies, deliveries, and postpartum care.
- Signed a budget that included additional community navigators to improve access to health coverage; funding for Sickle Cell Disease treatment; and established the Race, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Office in the Department of Health and Human Services.